

March 5, 2001

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Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
U. S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857-0001

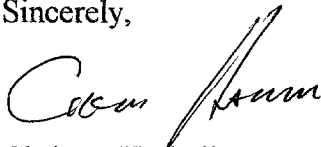
Dear Dr. Henney:

I am writing you urging the establishment of a reporting system to determine the quantity of antibiotics used in U.S. agriculture. In addition, Bayer pharmaceuticals should be forced to cease the marketing of fluoroquinolones for use in animals.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, U.S. agriculture uses 24.6 million pounds of antibiotics for nontherapeutic purposes – primarily for growth promotion. The problems and concerns associated with such a high level of use were raised by the editor-in-chief of Science magazine, Donald Kennedy.

The FDA should move to establish a system for collecting basic data on antibiotic use, agricultural as well as human, in the United States. Only by collecting such data, reaching a consensus, and then acting with authority on these decisions can we hope to halt the increase in antibiotic resistance that threatens to severely hamper their effectiveness.

Sincerely,



Chris A. Haskell

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